

**IL 19-98-003**

In Reply Refer To: 193B

**August 11, 1998**

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER LETTER**

**AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

1. The American Health Information Management Association will hold its National Convention in New Orleans, LA, October 3 through October 8, 1998. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will hold a meeting for Health Information Management personnel on October 8, 1998.
2. Attendance at this conference will enable facility Health Information Management personnel to learn more about current activities in information management in VHA, as well as attend sessions covering a wide variety of health care administrative and management issues.
3. As the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) enters into new ways of doing business, the resourceful use of data and information will be vital to VHA survival. Health Information Managers, formerly known as Medical Record Administrators, play a vital role in the continued success of VHA. These professionals are key to the development of a computer-based patient record which meets all legal and regulatory requirements and is a basis for patient care, education, research, performance improvement, and organizational decision-making. Health Information Managers direct the sections of the organization responsible for capturing, validating, interpreting, analyzing, and reporting much of the information in VHA's databases.
4. Exposing facility staff to new and innovative technologies and ideas to better meet the needs of veteran patients cannot be emphasized enough. Attendance of your facility Health Information Management professional at this conference is encouraged. Facilities are responsible for tuition, travel expenses, and per diem.
5. Questions may be referred to Gail Graham, Health Information Manager, at 700-754-7517.

R. David Albinson  
Chief Information Officer

**DISTRIBUTION:** CO: E-mailed 8/11/98  
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 - FAX 8/11/98  
EX: Boxes 104, 88, 63, 60, 54, 52, 47, and 44 - FAX 8/11/98